

Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation Full Commission Meeting

Meeting Summary

October 14, 1998

Commission members present:

Doug Beighle, Peter Bennett, Port Commissioner Ted Bottiger, Don Briscoe, Bob Dilger, Roger Dormaier, Councilmember Dave Earling, Representative Ruth Fisher, Governor Booth Gardner, Representative Mary Margaret Haugen, Doug Hurley, Peter Hurley, Commissioner Bettie Ingham, Jennifer Joly, Bill Lampson, Senator Valoria Loveland, Councilmember Richard McIver, Representative Maryann Mitchell, Tomio Moriguchi, Charles Mott, Representative Ed Murray, Connie Niva, Commissioner Patricia Notter, Dale Nusbaum, Patricia Otley, Senator Eugene Prince, John Rindlaub, Senator Dino Rossi, Skip Rowley, Representative Karen Schmidt, Commissioner Judie Stanton, Dale Stedman, Commissioner Judy Wilson

Commission members absent:

Rick Bender, Tim Ceis, Greg Devereux, Robert Helsell, Arthur D Jackson Jr., John Kelly, Neil Peterson, Larry Pursley, Kenneth Smith

Commission Operating Rules

Chairman Doug Beighle called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Action Item. Chairman Beighle referred members to the proposed operating rules. After making a motion and a second to adopt the Rules, members asked for clarification on Item (f) under the heading Meetings defining “consensus.” The Chair said he interpreted this rule to allow for minority statements of disagreement. The motion adopting the Operating Rules was approved as proposed.

Steering Committee Charter

Action Item. Vice Chairman Rindlaub accepted a motion and a second to adopt the Steering Committee charter. He elaborated on the first bullet point regarding “overall Commission direction,” indicating that it includes communication strategies, schedules for Commission operation, identification of issue overlaps among committees, and building consensus among committees. The text of the charter as proposed:

- **Provide overall commission direction.**
- **Charter committee activities, appoint chair and members.**
- **Oversee administrative issues, i.e. management of commission consultants.**

The motion adopting the Steering Committee charter as proposed was approved.

Investment, Administration and Revenue Committee Reports

Project Manager Lund provided an overview of a three-stage work schedule for the Commission. She reviewed the proposed vision statement and described initial informational materials that are being assembled at committee member request. These include a glossary of terms, an overview of transportation revenue sources and prioritization processes, an overview of TEA-21, a summary of the findings of the CTED infrastructure inventory, a summary of applicable laws affecting transportation, and preliminary criteria for selection and evaluation of topics. She said that committees were slated to select topics for evaluation during the next several months and the Commission would be asked to take action on topic selection at the January 14, 1999 Commission meeting.

Administration Committee Chairman Hurley reported that his committee has met twice and that the tenor of the meetings had been one of open-mindedness and understanding of the complexity of the issues to be dealt with. The Committee has a strong desire to set achievable goals and to see results. Chairman Hurley provided an overview of preliminary criteria for topic selection and sample topics discussed by the Committee. He also indicated that committee members wished to change the Committee name and would be proposing new names at an upcoming meeting.

Investment Committee Chairman Stedman reported that his Committee also met twice and had discussed its charter and scope of responsibility. His Committee members have said they need to bring their basic knowledge level up and learn before deciding on actions. They too identified preliminary topics for consideration.

Revenue Committee Chairman Rowley spoke also to his Committee's acknowledgment of the need for a learning phase. He reported that the Revenue Committee has agreed that all issues are on the table and any recommendations need to be reasonable and achievable. His Committee members have asked for information on the history of funding, legal constraints and comparisons to other states and countries. The Committee will be looking at all funding sources including operational sources, user fees, tolls, public/private funding, and congestion pricing.

Discussion ensued of the three committee charters.

Administration Committee Charter

Action Item. Chairman Beighle accepted a motion and a second to adopt the following charter as proposed by the Administration Committee with amendments following Commission discussion:

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The Administration Committee will recommend improvements to key structures, policies, and practices of governments, businesses, and labor that could contribute to cost-efficient and effective transportation solutions to citizens. To accomplish this charter the committee intends to inventory, analyze and evaluate a broad array of topics including:

- **the structures, policies and practices of government entities, private business, and labor that affect the delivery of transportation programs and projects.**
- **the relationship between federal, state and local government agencies in delivering transportation programs, projects and services.**
- **the effectiveness of governance and planning organizations at all levels in determining transportation needs and priorities.**
- **the effectiveness of the 1977 consolidation of all transportation functions in the WSDOT.**

The motion adopting the Administration Committee charter was approved.

Revenue Committee Charter

Action Item. Chairman Beighle accepted a motion and a second to adopt the following charter as proposed by the Revenue Committee with amendments following Commission discussion:

Make recommendations on a realistic, predictable and achievable plan for funding transportation programs, projects and services over the next twenty years.

- **Evaluate existing federal, state, regional, county, city and private transportation funding programs.**
- **Evaluate potential federal, state, regional, county, city and private transportation funding programs.**

The motion adopting the Revenue Committee charter was approved.

Investment Strategy Committee Charter

Chairman Beighle accepted a motion and a second to adopt the following charter as proposed by the Investment Committee with amendments following Commission discussion:

The Investment Committee will recommend transportation priorities for Washington State to be achieved within 20 years. To accomplish this charter the

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committee intends to inventory, analyze and evaluate a broad array of topics including:

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- Understand existing and emerging statewide transportation needs.
- Recommend critical state, regional and local transportation investments.
- Review, evaluate, and recommend state, regional and local planning and programming practices.
- Identify, evaluate, and recommend strategies that reduce demand for transportation facilities as well as strategies that add new capacity.
- Propose a method for recognizing and mitigating inter-jurisdictional impacts of transportation improvements.

The motion adopting the Investment Strategy Committee charter was approved.

Vision, Mission and Goals

Action Item A motion and a second were made to adopt the proposed Blue Ribbon Commission Vision, Mission and Goals. Following Commission discussion, the Mission statement and Goals were amended as follows:

Vision

We envision a first-class transportation system supporting a strong economy and a high quality of life in Washington State.

Mission

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation will recommend policies and financial strategies that will result in substantially improved delivery of effective, long-term solutions for state and local transportation.

The Blue Ribbon Commission will commit to building public awareness of the problems and recommended solutions to facilitate implementation by the relevant decision makers.

Goals

1. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation will agree on:

- Washington's transportation policies, strategies and priorities.
- Changes in policies and practices of governments, businesses and labor that may contribute to cost-efficient and effective transportation solutions.
- Revenue strategies that achieve the implementation of the policies, strategies and priorities.

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2. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation will report its final findings and recommendations by December 1, 2000.

The motion adopting the vision, mission and goals was approved.

Public Comment

JP Jones of the Washington Refuse and Recycling Association and the Highway Users Federation expressed support for the Commission's efforts.

Kim Becklund of the Washington Transportation Alliance described the work of the Alliance and said its goal was in common with the Commission's goal.

It was proposed and agreed to have public comment at the beginning of meetings in the future.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.